(3) upgradation and restoration of JKTDC properties and maintenance of local tourism infrastructure;

(4) refurbishment of important Monsteries in Ladakh; and

(5) commissioning a feasibility study for a Convention Centre in Leh.

The Deptt. of Tourism has sanctioned projects amounting to Rs. 488.47 lakhs during 1996-97 to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. A Task Force on the development of Tourism in J&K has been constituted.

Amount sanctioned for development of Kanyakumari

1536. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for development of the Tourism Centre "Kanyakumari" at Tamil Nadu;

(b) how much amount was sanctioned for the improvement of Kanyakumari during the past three years; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA):(a) to (c) The Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned the following projects for the improvement of tourist facilities at Kanyakumari during the last three years.

Name of Project	*Amount Sanctioned*
	(Rs. in lakhs)
1. Ferry Launch Kanyakumari	39.07
2. View Tower at Kanyakumari	30.00
Total	69.07

Promotion of tourism in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura

1537. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked to promote tourism in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of new places proposed to be promoted in these States; and

(c) the number of new hotels to be constructed by ITDC during the said period in West Bengal and Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA):(a) and (b) The Central Department of Tourism identifies projects for Central Financial Assistance every year in consultation with the State Governments. 11 projects costing Rs. 250 lakhs in West Bengal, 10 projects costing Rs. 247 laksh in Kerala and 9 projects costing Rs. 217 lakhs in Tripura have been prioritised for central assistance for 1997-98. The projects in West Bengal are at Krishna Nagar, Alipurduar, Norghat, Fraserganj, Calcutta, Darjeeling, Dudhra, Kalimpong etc. The projects in Kerala are at Nallikette, Kumbergaon, Palakad, Karunagapally, Thiruvananthapuram, etc. The projects in Tripura are at Agartala, Udaipur, Shipahilaja, Kasba, Matabari, Ambassa, etc.

(c) In the proposals for Ninth Five Year Plan of ITDC, there is no proposal to construct any new hotel in West Bengal & Kerala.

Fund for development of tourism in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura

1538. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the amount of fund allocated for the development of tourism in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): The Department of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments, on the basis of specific project proposals received from them, based on their merits, interse priority and availability of funds. The funds sanctioned to Tripura, West Bengal and Kerala during the Eighth Five Year Plan are as follows:

State	*Amount sanctioned*
	(Rs. in lakhs)
1. West Bengal	656.30
2. Kerala	1014.87
3. Tripura	278.56

Measures to boost tourism in N.E. region

1539. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state what are the details of measures taken/contemplated by Government to boost tourism in North-Eastern Region in general and Assam in particular?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): The steps taken to encourage tourism in the North Eastern region include emphasis on Infrastructure and Human Resource Development and wide publicity of tourist attractions of the region. The Task Force of the Department of Tourism has prepared a report for the Development of the region through Tourism in the North Eastern States. The Department of Tourism has also identified Guwahati-Kaziranga-Shillong-Tawang as a travel circuit for intensive and integrated development.

For the development of tourism in Assam the Department of Tourism inconsultation with the State Government has idenfitied 11 projects estimated at Rs. 219 lakhs for Central financial assistance during 1997-98.

Increase in Non-Plan Expenditure of ITDC

1540. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-plan expenditure in ITDC Units/Divisions has been increasing during the last three years on accounts of entertainment expenses, foreign tours, consumption of petrol, telephones to unentitled staff, frequent renovations of officers' flats staff cars, overtime, conveyance etc.;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of non-plan expenditure to net profits during the last three years; and

(c) what steps are being taken by ITDC management to control the same and give the target for curtailment of expenses during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) and (b) No Sir. The percentage of non-plan expenditure (operating expenditure) to the turnover and net profit shows declining trend. The comparative details for last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (prov.)
Total non-plan expenditure	193.09	226.40	232.56
Turnover	235.93	298.05	314.54
% age of non-plan expenditure to turnover	81.84	75.96	73.94
Net Profit	43.17	71.65	74.34
%age of non-plan expenditure to net profit	447.28%	315.98%	312.83%

(c) The measures taken/being taken by ITDC to control non-plan (operating) expenditure include regular monitoring/ review by way of budgetary control, management information system,